

REMARKS

Claims 1-23 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 1, 6, and 13 are amended. Support for the claims can be found throughout the specification, including the original claims, and the drawings. Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejected claims 1, 4, 6-9, 12-13, 16, 18-20, and 23 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Artino et al. (hereinafter “Artino”), U.S. Patent No. 6,328,208. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to recite that the accumulation receptacle comprises “a first accumulation surface on which media are initially stacked upon receipt of media therein and a second accumulation surface on which media are stacked for customer access.” Artino does not disclose or suggest at least such features, or the claimed combination of independent claim 1.

That is, the Examiner refers to drum 48 of Artino having deposit accepting pocket 50 as corresponding to the claimed accumulation receptacle. However, as can be clearly seen in Figure 2 of Artino, the drum with deposit accepting pocket 50 includes only one accumulation surface on which items are stacked both during receipt of the item into the deposit accepting pocket 50 and during customer access.

Accordingly, the rejection of independent claim 1 over Artino should be withdrawn. Dependent claims 4, 6-9, and 12 are allowable over Artino at least for the reasons discussed

above with respect to independent claim 1, from which they depend, as well as for their added features.

Independent claim 13 recites a customer access module for a media dispenser comprising, *inter alia*, “an accumulation receptacle...comprising...a first accumulation surface on which media are initially stacked, and a second accumulation surface facing the first accumulation surface at a predetermined angle with respect thereto, wherein the second accumulation surface is configured to prevent unauthorized access to the media disposed on the first accumulation surface.” Artino does not disclose or suggest at least such features, or the claimed combination of independent claim 13.

That is, the Examiner refers to drum 48 having deposit accepting pocket 50 of Artino as serving as the accumulation receptacle. The Examiner then refers to the door 12 as the second surface. However, the door 12 is not a part of the drum 48. Thus, Artino does not disclose or suggest an accumulation receptacle comprising first and second accumulation surfaces as claimed, and in particular, a second accumulation surface facing the first accumulation surface at a predetermined angle with respect thereto, and configured to prevent unauthorized access to the media disposed on the first accumulation surface.

Accordingly, the rejection of independent claim 13 over Artino should be withdrawn. Dependent claims 16, 18-20, and 23 are allowable over Artino at least for the reasons discussed above with respect to independent claim 13, from which they depend, as well as for their added features.

The Office Action rejected claims 2-3 and 10-11 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Artino in view of Hicks et al. (hereinafter "Hicks"), U.S. Patent No. 3,715,569. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Dependent claims 2-3 and 10-11 are allowable over Artino at least for the reasons discussed above with respect to independent claim 1, from which they depend, as well as for their added features. Further, Hicks fails to overcome the deficiencies of Artino, as Hicks is merely cited as alleged teaching the claimed driving unit of claim 2, the claimed belt mechanism of claim 3, the claimed sensor arrangement of claim 10, and use of the customer access module in an automated teller machine as recited in claim 11. Accordingly, the rejection of claims 2-3 and 10-11 over the combination of Artino and Hicks should be withdrawn.

The Office Action rejected claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Artino. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Dependent claim 5 is allowable over Artino at least for the reasons discussed above with respect to independent claim 1, from which it depends, as well as for its added features. Accordingly, the rejection of claim 5 over Artino should be withdrawn.

The Office Action rejected claims 14-15 and 21-22 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Artino in view of Hicks. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Dependent claims 14-15 and 21-22 are allowable over Artino at least for the reasons discussed above with respect to independent claim 13, from which they depend, as well as for their added features. Further, Hicks fails to overcome the deficiencies of Artino, as Hicks is merely cited as alleged teaching the claimed driving unit of claim 14, the claimed belt mechanism

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of claim 15, the claimed sensor arrangement of claim 21, and use of the customer access module in an automated teller machine as recited in claim 22. Accordingly, the rejection of claims 14-15 and 21-22 over the combination of Artino and Hicks should be withdrawn.

The Office Action rejected claim 17 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Artino. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Dependent claim 17 is allowable over Artino at least for the reasons discussed above with respect to independent claim 13, from which it depends, as well as for its added features. Accordingly, the rejection of claim 17 over Artino should be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned, Carol L. Druzbeck, at the telephone number listed below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
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